



In Case of Emergency...

Monthly Newsletter of the Utah Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security

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INTRODUCING: THE UTAH DIVISION OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND HOMELAND SECURITY

CEM is no longer the name to remember. We are now the Utah Department of Public Safety Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security (DES).

"In addition to the traditional emergency management tasks, the division also has response and investigation responsibilities," said Department of Public Safety Commissioner Bob Flowers. "This new name more accurately reflects the division's current mission." The mission of the division is to plan for, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards, natural and man-made, that threaten the lives, safety, well-being, property and environment of the citizens of Utah and that threaten damage to the environment.



The division has responsibilities in the following areas:

- Homeland Security – works with local, state and federal partners to deal with statewide security threats and intelligence information
- Hazardous Materials – assists first responders statewide with training and response to hazardous material incidents
- Operations – operates the state emergency operations center and communications center
- Liaison Officers – work with local emergency managers to assist with planning, training, exercising and response
- Natural Hazards – prepares for natural disasters and mitigates against disaster damage
- Technological Hazards – operates the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program in Utah
- Center for Domestic Preparedness – central coordinating office for domestic preparedness and implementation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programs in the state
- Training and Exercise – conducts training courses in emergency management and professional

- Development and community workshops and emergency preparedness
 - Excess/Surplus Property Distribution – assists public safety agencies in obtaining federal excess property
- "The level of services provided by the division will continue to expand," said Scott Behunin, division director. "We are committed to the safety of the people and environment of Utah." The State Legislature passed the name change during the 2002 General Session.

HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE

A Utah infrastructure protection conference is scheduled for September 12 and 13 in West Valley City and hosted by the Homeland Security bureau of DES. There will be a myriad of guest speakers from various disciplines. Please check back for more information on this conference.



HMI CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR RICHFIELD, UTAH

DES hosted a HazMat Conference May 21-23 in Richfield. This conference was aimed towards HazMat first responders in law enforcement, fire and emergency medical. Presenters from DES' Hazardous Materials Institute along with other agencies offered classes and presentations both lecture and hands-on from awareness to technician level response.

"This is the premier HazMat conference in the state of Utah," said Dave Milligan, HMI program manager. "We really try to enhance the skills and knowledge of hazardous materials responders in our state."

Next years conference will be held in Ogden.

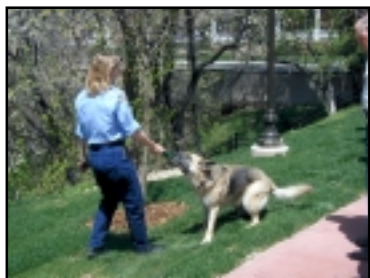


CITY AND COUNTY DIRECTORS CONFERENCE

The CCDC is a quarterly conference that brings together city, county, tribal and private sector emergency managers. Any emergency manager from local Utah jurisdictions, as well as higher education emergency managers, local elected officers and congressional representatives are invited.

The overall goal is to provide current and timely information to the emergency managers, including any issues that could be facing communities, such as the wildfire threats, flooding, and earthquakes.

An added benefit is training opportunities. Tabletop exercises and presentations are offered at the CCDC.



The latest conference offered a presentation by Rocky Mountain Rescue Dogs. Nancy Hachmeister is a volunteer trainer and responder who offers search and rescue services to any agency.

She can be reached at 800 327 6068, or 801 580 4649 (24 hours on call).

Other highlights included four emergency program managers who gave a sketch of the scope of emergency management for their areas, including their organizational structure, programs, accomplishments, volunteer programs and challenges. An example is Jesse Burbidge of South Jordan City who organized CERT teams, a neighborhood watch, increased communications and TV's in their EOC and maximized the SLA grant given to his city this year.

If you are interested in the year-end meeting, the Public Official Conference, contact DES at 801.538.3400.

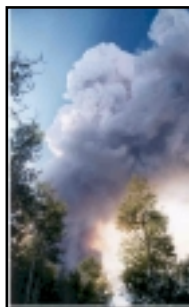
EMERGENCY SERVICES AND HOMELAND SECURITY REPRESENTED AT STINGERS HOME OPENER

Employees of Emergency Services and Homeland Security were invited to distribute pamphlets and brochures during the opening home stand of the Salt Lake Stingers baseball team.



"Salute to America" tribute during the first week saw various agencies display information and answer questions from the fans. Agencies present included the U.S. Air force Reserves, Utah Highway Patrol, S.L. Police Department and S.L. County Sheriff's office.

FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM SEMINAR



A Fire Management Assistance Grant Program Seminar was held in Denver, Colorado May 1 and 2. FEMA Region VIII hosted this seminar in order to bring together key players in the event of a wildfire that could become a declared fire eligible for federal assistance. The players included the public assistance officer, the agency person in each that is responsible for pre-declaration activity, the principal advisors and the Forest Service representatives from each state. Also attending was a representative from FEMA national and key personnel from FEMA Region VIII.

Discussion was centered on a final rule that changes the old Fire Suppression Program to the Fire Management Assistance Program Grant Program. The states in attendance gave a recap of their states fire outlook for this year. Submitted by Anna Rae Garrett DES Admin Section Manager.

DROUGHT IN UTAH



The drought conditions in Utah are shaping up to be horrendous. Many cities and counties have already placed restrictions on water usage. And statewide reservoir storage is down 12% compared to last year. As of May 10, 9 counties in Utah have declared drought emergencies. And more are preparing for the process of declaration. With the lack of moisture, the threat of wildfire throughout the state will also continue to increase. Please check next month for state wildfire information.

HOW TO ESCAPE AFRICAN KILLER BEES



In an effort to keep Utahns completely prepared to deal with any crisis, we proudly present safety tips from the "Worst Case Survival Handbook".

If bees begin flying around and/or stinging you, do not freeze. Run away; swatting at the bees only makes them angrier. Get inside as fast as you can. If no shelter is available, run through bushes or high weeds. This will help give you cover.

If a bee stings you, it will leave its stinger in your skin. Remove the stinger by raking your fingernail across it in a sideways motion. Do not pinch or pull the stinger out--this may squeeze more venom from the stinger into your body.

While any colony of bees will defend its hive, Africanized bees do so with gusto. These bees can kill, and they present a danger even to those who are not allergic to bee stings. Regular honeybees will chase you about 50 yards. Africanized honeybees may pursue you three times that distance.

